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SOURCE Meditsinskiy Rabotnik, No 24, 1949.LATVIAN MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS, WORKERS SCORED

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The Soviet system has instituted many medical enterprises which were heretofore unknown in bourgeois Latvia. The budget for medical enterprises increases every year. Doctors and middle medical personnel are improving their qualifications. Under the present system, improvement is still necessary to care for the laboring class. Problems related to this field were discussed at a recent conference of the Central Committee of the Communist Party. At the same time, the operation of Latvian hospitals, polyclinics, and various medical institutions was investigated. Many deficiencies were brought to light in this investigation.

It was found that a large part of the hospitals and medical institutions were below established standards in various respects. In most of the cases it was found that doctors did not give proper attention to their patients. Moreover, they were aloof in their relationships with middle medical personnel and did not assist them with their problems. Frequently, doctors were careless in diagnoses. Laboratory facilities were not being utilized in all cases, and there was no consultation of specialists. The program for the unification of hospitals and polyclinics progressed slowly and inefficiently.

The investigation also revealed that the majority of medical institutions had no effective budgetary control and that records were not kept of funds spent. For example, at the First Riga Clinical Hospital, unauthorized spending amounted to many thousands of rubles.

It was further determined that the relationship between the various medical enterprises and the Latvian Ministry of Health was very poor. It is the responsibility of the Ministry to see that Latvian doctors carry out the Party line. Frequently those doctors, who have for so long labored under the misconceptions of bourgeois rule, failed to adopt the unexcelled achievements of Soviet medical science.

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On the other hand, there are many hundreds of medical workers who are earnestly studying the Marxist-Lenin doctrine and are putting it into practice. One hundred and six doctors -- deputies of local soviets -- are actively participating in the work of standing committees of health. However, it must be admitted that much ideological-political instruction is necessary before Latvian doctors become fully appreciative of the benefits of Soviet rule. Party organizations of many Latvian medical institutions are not active enough. For example, the Party organization at the First Riga and Children's Clinical Hospital is not concerned about the quality of medical aid being given the patients. Thus, it is up to the various Party organizations to assist the less adept doctors to find the Party line and abide by it.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Latvia has charged the various itinerant and municipal Party committees to carry out a more intensive program for control of medical workers. They are to conduct frequent meetings, at which medical workers should submit reports regarding the state of medical aid and public health in Latvia.

One of the most important projects is a general over-all improvement of the qualifications of Latvian medical workers. The Central Committee urges that greater use be made of schools for advancement, as well as specialists clinics. The Ministry of Health, as well as the various health departments, is charged with the duty of increasing the number of middle medical personnel. There must be intensive programs to acquaint the Latvian medical worker with the achievements of Soviet medical science. There is a serious lack of Soviet medical literature in Latvia, a condition that will be remedied in the very near future. It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Health to see that the largest possible amount of Soviet literature is translated into Latvian.

Much remains to be done in the field of epidemiological and sanitation work in cities, and particularly in rural communities. The agricultural picture is gradually changing and many hundreds of new kolkhozes are being organized.

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